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K133

Kansas Centennial, July 16 thru 19, 1953
"Our First Hundred Years"

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY.



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K133

**OUR
FIRST**



HUNDRED YEARS



KANSAS, ILLINOIS
JULY 16-19, 1953

25¢

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J. I. CASE TRACTORS AND FARM MACHINERY

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KANSAS, ILLINOIS


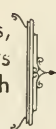


CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS
TO A FINE COMMUNITY

Frank Martha Lee Arlie Bert Bruce

Kansas Centennial

July 16 thru 19, 1953

 This celebration is staged by and for the citizens of Kansas, Illinois and the surrounding area in honor of those early pioneers who paused here on their march westward to settle and establish our community. 

— WE WELCOME YOU —

Centennial Week

Schedule of Daily Events

(All times listed are Central Standard Time)

Wednesday, July 15

Pet Parade, prizes 1:30 P.M.
 Coronation Of Queen 8:00 P.M.
 Old Time Fiddlers Contest and
 Free Street Dance 8:30 P.M.
 Farmer Stoltz Orchestra
 Cleo Brading, Caller

Thursday, July 16

Band Concert 1:00 P.M.
 WLS Artists 2:00 P.M.
 Homer and Jethro, Red Blanchard,
 Phyllis Brown, Augie Klein
 Bicycle Races 3:00 P.M.
 (See page 40)
 WLS Artists 8:30 P.M.
 Prize Drawing 9:30 P.M.

Friday, July 17

Pie and Cake Contest 8:00 A.M.
 (See page 40)
 Wright Magician 2:00 P.M.
 Paul Bunyan Criss 3:00 P.M.
 (See page 42)

Band Concert 7:00 P.M.
 Wright Magician 8:00 P.M.
 Amateur Contest 8:30 P.M.
 Prize Drawing 9:30 P.M.

Saturday, July 18

PARADE—Our First Hundred
 Years 12:00 Noon
 (See page 42)
 Costume Contest 1:00 P.M.
 (See page 42)
 Western Horse Show 1:30 P.M.
 (See page 44)
 Marshall American Legion
 Auxiliary Choir 8:00 P.M.
 Beard Growing Contest 9:00 P.M.
 (See page 42)
 Prize Drawing 9:30 P.M.

Sunday, July 19

Union Church Service 11:00 A.M.
 Basket Dinner 12:30 P.M.
 Band Concert 2:00 P.M.
 PAGEANT—KANSAS
 HISTORICADE 7:30 P.M.

Kansas Historicade

A Pageant of Memories

Foreword

In telling the story of Kansas, your committee felt from the first the heavy pressure of two limitations. First the narrow space of the time of a pageant determined that for every episode included, many with equal claim to attention should be left out. More important still, the very nature of a pageant required that attention be centered on those aspects of our history that can be seen with our eyes, rather than on those which are perceived by our minds or felt in our hearts.

One thing more, your committee has gone to the distant past for most of the scenes selected. This we have done because the needs of the present and plans for the future are with us every day. On this one occasion we look back to our beginnings. What six generations of our forefathers have done should give us hope and courage for the future.



Prologue

In the beginning, using great rivers for strokes, nature outlined Illinois as the heart of a continent. The Union sketched this same map and made it a state. Then Nature looked upon a spot in the center of this map and said—"Here is no river, here are no mountains, here is prairie—fertile prairie. To this spot will come strong men, here will grow tall corn and fine cattle". And so a town was born. One hundred years later we will bring into review a small portion of that past, as a tribute to the Pioneers, because—Kansas remembers.



First Episode

The period of the Indians.

For countless moons one of the Kickapoo tribes of Indians had made its home in the area. Trouble with the Indians in the northwest part of the state, and the general less friendly relations here caused the Government to desire their removal to reservations beyond the Mississippi, and in the spring of 1831 the entire band met for the last time at the

Gap, south of what is now Kansas, to take up their march toward the setting sun.

This scene will depict the Indian meeting and departure.



Second Episode

The period of settlement.

As soon as it was certain that a railroad station was to be made here, the town was named "Midway" and plotted. It is impossible to turn back the wheel of time a century and picture the development of a community, without discovering the major problem of transportation, and it was the coming of the railroad which brought real prosperity. Then on an autumn day in 1816 a Kentucky backwoodsman and his wife and children ferried across the Ohio river, bringing to the midwest a boy who became inland America's greatest man, and Abraham Lincoln began a career which did not end until a train bore him away as president elect of the United States.

There were many objections to the coming of the railroad, but the greatest misfortune, not predicted by anyone was the utter ruin of towns already started, and Kansas grew rapidly because of the removal of houses from the little town of Hitesville.

In this scene you will see the surveyors, the building of the railroad, Abraham Lincoln, and the first Midway store.



Third Episode

The period of the churches.

The people of Kansas are humbly proud of their religious background. With the settings of the broad prairies, with fine belts of timber, the first religious services were held wherever a few could meet together.

This scene will portray an early church service.



Fourth Episode

The period of the Civil War.

Kansas came into being at a troublesome time. The rumblings of dissention among the states were

increasing to thunderous proportions. Dissatisfaction in politics added fuel to the question of slavery, and when the call came, there is no doubt that in proportion to the number of inhabitants, this township turned out more soldiers than any other, which joined in the anxiety felt across the nation, when the fate of the country hung in the balance at Gettysburg and Vicksburg.

This scene will depict a soldier camp fire.



Fifth Episode

The period of Industry.

It was the rich level soil which first brought people to the county to found a new civilization and create a free way of life. In the beginning they were mostly farmers, as it was the grainlands which created the lasting resources of the area.

But the town quickly grew into a center for the manufacturing of badly needed tile. The shipping of livestock has always been an extensive business, and several mills and hay presses were running during the early years.



Sixth Episode

The period of school days.

The general education law had passed in 1855, and the school played an important part in community life. Will Carleton immortalized many phases of life in rural districts in his books of verse, and religion and learning advanced with equal strides.

This scene will show a school room of the early days.



Seventh Episode

The period of social development.

Sometimes the tranquil home life in rural districts became irksome to young people. Most of the social gatherings were "work parties", quilting bees, corn huskings, and house raisings. But they were a sociable and cooperative group, and found happiness in simple pleasures.

The scene here is a square dance.



Eighth Episode

The period of World War I.

For years peace and prosperity reigned over the little town. The rich soil brought forth a golden harvest; then it was 1917; and a great war cloud swept over Europe, and burst into a conflict engulfing the

world. Kansas gave freely of her sons who fought side by side for Democracy.

The scene here presented pays tribute to the veterans.



Ninth Episode

The period of World War II.

Again peace and prosperity were everywhere, and then once more we entered into a world conflict to preserve the survival of our way of life. The Kansas boys, like their fathers in World War I, and their forefathers in other wars, gave their all for town, state and country.

The tableau depicting the raising of the flag on Iwo Jima is pictured in this scene.



Tenth Episode

Grand Finale.

Such is the story of Kansas. We close the page on the visual history book. To the Illinois story we feel that Kansas has contributed one tiny chapter. This Historicade cannot be complete, for it is impossible to recreate a period, yet we hope the glimpses will give us a feeling of the past decades that will be a source of inspiration as we move toward an uncharted future. That future we leave in the hands of the children, trusting that the freedom wrested from the past by our forefathers will not perish from the earth.

(Due to printer's dead line we regret that cast is not listed).



Another celebration in the Park

Our First Hundred Years

D. M. TROLL

(The writer wishes to thank the people who helped by contributing information and materials used in compiling this brief history.)

It is hard to realize that 100 years ago our beautiful Village and the fine farms surrounding it were the haunt of the prairie wolf and the rattlesnake, and that graceful deer could be seen peacefully grazing, rarely disturbed by human beings. The chief disturbing element was prairie fire which frequently made for man and beast alike a race for life.

Settlement began in what is now Kansas Township as early as 1823 when the Boyers (Frederick and Abraham) came from Kentucky. The next two years saw the arrival of Jonathan Brown and Isaac Waite. Of the first families the oldest direct descendants living in the area are O. E. Boyer, S. A. Boyer, George Boyars, Will Boyer and Mrs. J. H. Kirkham, who are grandchildren of Abraham.

In 1826 came the Henry Bulls and in 1830 the Pinnells and Wilhoits. The early Pinnell settlers were Abraham, Edward and Willis. Abraham settled south of Kansas in what was called the Gap where Earl Ingram lives now. Edward Pinnell served in the War of 1812 and was the only man in the County who could claim that honor. Willis also settled near the Gap and served this District in the State Legislature. Julius Wilhoit settled on the farm where Andrew Myers now lives. Lovel Wilhoit, a son of Julius, was the man for whom the Village of Kansas was laid out.

The same year (1830) troubles with the Indians seemed imminent, and there were very few accessions until they were fully over. Indians were numerous in the County. They were the Kickapoos and the Pottawatomies, who were for the most part quiet, peaceable and friendly. Practically all of the trouble occurred in the northwest part of the State, and caused the Government to apply pressure to remove them to reservations beyond the Mississippi. In fact, in this area the two peoples had lived together in such harmony that some regrets were expressed when it was definitely understood that they were about to make their exodus.

In the spring of 1831, the whole band, several hundred of them, met for the last time near the Gap, to listen to Father Buel, a preacher, before taking up their march westward.

The year following the Blackhawk War, George Baber, the great grandfather of Adin Baber, settled on the farm where Adin now lives. Mr. Baber at one time was defended by Abraham Lincoln—a trial in which some parties attempted to dispossess him of some land with a forged deed. Judgment was rendered

in Mr. Baber's favor and a \$15 fee was paid Mr. Lincoln for his services.

Of the other early settlers in Kansas Township who left their mark in history were the Steeles and John Y. Allison in 1837. John, James and Wm. Laughead arrived in 1838.

Kansas or Midway, as a Town, was still unthought of in 1850 when Frederick Boyers' family struck out north from the Pleasant Hill neighborhood to settle on the prairie, which was thought to be a wild venture. They built a house located where Carrell Duzan lives now. The building, torn down a few years ago was believed to include this original house. It was one room, 14x14, and housed seven people. Their nearest neighbor, the J. B. Clemens family, lived in what is now known as the Walter Brown home, three-quarter miles to the southeast. One-half mile farther east was the George Brown home, grandparents of Bruce Brown, Arlie Brown and Mrs. Lester Fell, where John Barry now lives. Northeast across 8 miles of trackless prairie two families lived in the Hickory Grove. Their names were Moses Burr and a man by the name of Glover. The first house built north of Boyers was erected on the Samuel Honnold home place by Isaac Randolph, who also moved from Pleasant Hill.

One of the most important events in connection with the history of this part of the State was the building of the Terre Haute and Alton Railroad (N.Y.C.). Especially was this section cut off from the outer world in regard to travel and markets. The landings along the Wabash and Ohio Rivers afforded the only means of disposing of the products of this rich soil. When the idea of a railroad was broached there was considerable opposition from those who claimed it would increase taxes, that the engine would set fire to fields and haystacks, and that increased travel would be a means of importing disease. The road nevertheless was built and the greatest misfortune that occurred was one scarcely predicted by anyone. That was the utter ruin of villages and towns already founded but not along the right-of-way. Examples of these in Edgar County near Kansas are Hitesville, Grandview and Warrington. According to an Edgar County history this Railroad was in running order in 1853.

In 1869 the Township voted \$50,000 in aid of the Danville and Ohio River R. R. on the condition that the line should be built through the Township. It was built, running from Danville to Olney, 109 miles. The car shops together with some of its principal offices were located in Kansas. The roundhouse was located where the Marathon bulk plant is now. Part of this railroad was still in operation in the middle 20's, known to all of us as the "Doty."

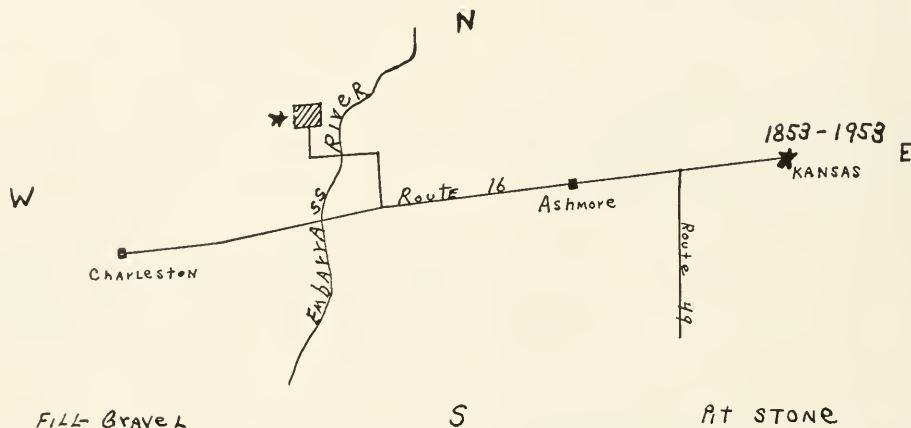
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Kansas, Illinois

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Midway

It was in June of 1853 that Lovel Wilhoit sensing the great transportation need for this area caused the town to be surveyed and platted. Those assisting him were County Surveyor Benj. F. Lodge, Elijah A. Boyer, and D. W. Zink. The day's work resulted in laying out what is now designated on the map of the Village as the "Original Town." It is an area enclosed between the old Doty R. R. and Front Street

east and west and Buena Vista Street and Lafayette Street north and south. Lovel Wilhoit built his home where Mrs. Marie Pinnell's house is now located.

The plat was recorded the 16th of July 1853 and thus was the foundation of the Village laid. The growth of the town began much after the fashion of all inland towns in a muddy country. Because of its location between Paris and Charleston, and Indianapolis and St. Louis it was called Midway.

This name was kept until application for a post office was made. Then it was found that there was already a town in Illinois by that name in Fulton County. The Village of Kansas was incorporated in 1858 and was named to correspond with the township which was organized a year earlier, and so named because of the excitement caused by the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill in 1854. The officers of the incorporation meeting were Dr. John Mills, President, and the councilmen selected were J. K. Boyer, E. J. Rinker, E. A. Boyer, J. R. McDavitt and Daniel Curd. In 1871 the organization was changed to correspond to the General Laws of the State and under this organization the officials have been elected and have acted until the present. Under the present town organization the first President was William Juntgen and the Trustees were A. Bacon, S. J. Payne, O. Q. Herrick and W. H. Brown.



The "Old Doty"—Snowbound

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Authorized Capital \$1,000,000

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CENTENNIAL
OUR FIRST
HUNDRED
YEARS



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Made by Honeggers' own secret process, this energy-rich pig starter will produce pork for 1/3 of the cost of wet, sloppy milk replacers. Super-fortified for fastest growth, vigorous health, and disease resistance.



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FREE!



A complete line of Poultry and Livestock Feeds and Supplies

- BETTER FEEDS
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RARDIN GRAIN COMPANY

KANSAS

Grain

Fertilizer

Big 'H' Feed

Business Enterprises

The first merchant was John W. Hogue who displayed his wares in a small building just north of the Railroad, just east of Acord's Elevator about on the site of Greever's Feed Store. It was about 16x30 and was crudely constructed. The building and contents made several changes in ownership in a brief period of time. Mr. Hogue sold out to J. W. Saunders, a sub-contractor in the construction of the Railroad. Mills, Herrick and Kester were the next owners, but soon retired from the business, the first two to practice medicine and the other to preaching. Samuel Birch, J. D. Thrasher, J. K. and W. F. Boyer in turn succeeded as proprietors of the "Midway Store." The last named gentleman, in the spring of 1854, erected a very good two story building, large enough to accommodate a good sized stock of goods below, while the upper floor served as a residence for W. F. Boyer.

Across the Railroad south about where Neal's Marathon Station is located the old depot was built.

Riley McDavitt ran the first hotel, the Kansas House, where Shade's Garage now stands. It was built shortly after the platting of the Original Town. It was a two-story affair with a two-story porch. Many can still remember when it was torn down in 1916. The other Hotel, the Kester House, which burned in 1922, was erected in the 1870's, on which is now the vacant lot west of the Bank. It was also a two-story building—the lower floor being used for stores and offices with the Hotel upstairs.

The following winter, (1855-56), Midway grew rapidly because of the removal of many of the houses of the Town of Hitesville, four miles southwest on the old State Road. The moving of these buildings was under the supervision of Uncle James Laughead who took advantage of the deep snow that prevailed that winter, placed skids under the buildings, attached 16 yoke of oxen and dragged them



Lovel Wilhoit—man for whom Kansas was laid out.

across the fields to town. Many of the houses were originally placed north of the Railroad although apparently some were moved again later. We are assured by some old-timers that many are still in use. Some of these are the houses of Mrs. Frank Anderson, Mrs. Cleve Shade, Eldred Walton, Mrs. Leatha Reynolds, Mrs. Sam Titus, Mrs. Lola Arterburn, Miss Helen Covey and part of Mr. Jesse McDaniels' house.

For a period of 18 years Messrs. Boyer were the leading merchants of the town. W. F. Boyer was the first Railroad Agent, Postmaster and Express Agent. During this time there were 16 dry goods houses opened. Many merchants failed because of the credit system then in vogue. At this time, for a merchant to refuse a man credit was an unheard of thing. A man's ability to pay was never called in question, and when he needed an article he went to the store and got it. The crash of 1857 took care of many more.

Along with the dry goods came the grocery, and the number of these was even greater. Closely connected with the early day grocery was the whisky trade. In fact, few did business without this article making part of the stock. The first regular saloon was kept by a Mr. Burdette. As he understood the com-

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MEMBER F. D. I. C.

pounding of fancy and mixed drink he was looked upon by the drinking population with admiration and consequently did a thriving business. He dispensed his wares in a one-story frame building near the present residence of R. L. Bane.

Until the building of the Paris and Decatur Railroad in 1865, Kansas monopolized the hay and grain trade for this area. The pioneers in this business were J. K. and W. F. Boyer. They erected a warehouse just opposite the depot. Others entered the field soon thereafter, all of whom were more or less successful. George Brown erected the first hay press in 1858. This business furnished employment to a large number of men, and income to the farmers. During the war of the Rebellion, Kansas was the leading point on the Railroad in the shipment of hay. Most of these products were purchased by Army contractors for use by the Cavalry.

In the 1870's it was realized by agriculturists that great advantages could be derived by having lands properly drained. To supply the demand for tile in this vicinity, Paxton and Tichenor erected a factory for \$3,300.00 and began manufacture. The demand was so great that John S. Paxton erected another factory at a cost of \$4,000.00. Each one turned out about 800,000 tile a year. There is no trace of either of these factories now, but both were located in the east part of town.

A mill was established early in the history of Kansas by Robert Owens. It burned and was rebuilt,



William Juntgen—First Village President
after reorganization in 1871

and after several changes of ownership fell into the hands of W. P. West who moved the machinery to Scotland, Illinois. Thomas Paxton and Calvin McVey in 1865 built the Ensign Mill, which was reputed the

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PARIS, ILLINOIS

McArthur Motor Sales

SINCE



1920

PHONE 666

CHARLESTON, ILL.



W. F. Boyer, First Postmaster,
First Railroad and Express Agent

best outside of the larger cities, and was located on the corner where Short's Marathon station stands.

The largest venture in the industrial effort came in 1888 when Staff Bros. Cannery Company was built at an expense of \$50,000.00. It was the largest of its kind west of Baltimore. It burned in 1892 and

was rebuilt but smaller than before. It burned a second time about 1907-08 completely. At that time it housed the electric plant which supplied lights for Kansas. This Cannery was located west of Kansas about one-half mile along the north side of the N.Y.C. tracks. Its owner, Mr. Staff, lived where Mr. O. O. Mitchell now lives.

Following this fire the Village built and operated an electric light plant located about where Kirchners concrete shed stands. In August 1909 a Village ordinance was passed selling the plant to H. A. Porter, who operated it a few months but was unable to obtain the required bond and so returned it to the Village who ran it until 1911 when the C. I. P. S. Company circulated petitions to buy it.

At one time there was a broom factory, lumber mill and woolen factory in Kansas. The broom factory was located above Rider's furniture store and the knitting factory was west of the Standard Service Station in the next block.

In later years little or no attempt has been made to establish manufacturing in Kansas. The only exception being a concrete block plant, which was started by a Mr. Appleby in 1946. He sold out to

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JUNCTION 49 & 16

KANSAS

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Fenton Chaney a year later, who in turn sold to Charles Kirchner in 1950. This factory burned last year, but is in the process of being rebuilt,

The two businesses employing the most people in Kansas today are the two elevators. Other businesses in Kansas consist of a drug store, two restaurants, nine filling stations and garages, four groceries, a pool room, a cattle loan office, a furniture store, two electrical appliance stores, a shoe repair shop, a hardware store, a lumber yard, two blacksmith shops, two barber shops, two beauty shops, two insurance offices, a poultry and cream station, a plumber, a dry goods store, a feed mill, two car dealers, a farm implement store and numerous trucking concerns. In addition there is the newspaper, the Bank and a merchant-owned theatre. Professional services are rendered by a Physician, an Osteopath and a Veterinarian. The town is deeply indebted to Dr. F. B. Weaver who has devoted his entire professional career to serving our people, a period extending over 32 years. He served the Village as President for a number of years and was largely responsible for our present water system and our fire protection system.



The Press

The first newspaper was the Kansas Citizen. It began publication in 1868, lasted four years and was owned by E. F. Chittenden. Soon after this, W. W. Bishop began publication of the Kansas News which first appeared in 1873. The other publication, the Republican-Sun began April 15, 1878, and was owned by W. S. Rose. By 1889 the names of these two papers had been changed to the Kansas Herald and the Kansas Journal. The Herald was located over the east half of Ochs Drug Store, and the Journal was

where Carl Brant's store is located. The Herald went out of business in 1890. The Kansas Journal is the oldest existing business in Kansas today. Roy Webster sold it to W. G. Covey (father of Helen and Harry) in 1915, and the Coveys have operated it since.



Telephone and Telegraph

The first telegraph line was put through on the old State Road in 1847. The line along the Railroad came through Kansas in 1855.

Telephones were first in Kansas in 1899. The name of the Company was the Citizens Mutual Tele-



E. E. Hurst Shoe Repair Shop
Mr. Hurst and Mr. David Hisey

★

S. A. LAUHER

Dealer for DeKalb Seed Corn

DeKalb Hybrid Chicks

PHONE 244

KANSAS, ILLINOIS

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NORTH SIDE PARK

B. F. Goodrich Tires, Tubes,

Batteries — Tractor Tire Repair

PHONE 163

LEROY SHORT

KANSAS

ILLINOIS

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ALBERT C. ANDERSON

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Commercial Fertilizers

Soil Testing

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Chrysler — Plymouth



5TH & WASHINGTON — PHONES 1 & 38

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ART'S ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY

ART SOLHEIM, Proprietor

TAPPAN
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CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS

PHONE 606

All Types Electrical Service

Booster Of Centennial

PARKER'S TRANSFER

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Dependable Farm Seed

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HIGH QUALITY RAW ROCK PHOSPHATE

E. H. WASHBURN

KANSAS

ILLINOIS

BENNETT'S PRODUCE

Poultry, Eggs, Cream
Nutrena Feeds

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KANSAS, ILLINOIS

COMPLIMENTS OF

LLOYD SIMPSON

Kansas, Illinois

WICKHAMS

CAFE

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Shop Well-Worth
FIRST FOR EVERYTHING

WELL-WORTH
5 AND 10c STORES

CHARLESTON

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phone Company of Eastern Illinois. Office hours were from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on week days, and on Sundays 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Only emergency calls were answered after 9:00 p.m. The rates were \$12.00 a year for residences and \$24.00 a year for business houses. The telephones today carry the same numbers originally assigned. The old "country line" operated by Mr. Bennett ceased to exist several years ago, but the Westfield Kansas Telephone Company became the C. T. & N. Telephone Company in August 1952, and under their ownership the entire system is in the process of changing over to the dial system. This service is expected to be in operation this year.



Banking Enterprises

Banking in Kansas began with the private Banking house of Pinnell, Boyer and Company. In 1872, these men with six others applied for permission to establish a National Bank in the Kester House. It was to be called the First National Bank and have a capital stock of \$50,000.00. The first board of directors consisted of President, W. O. Pinnell; Cashiers, W. F. Boyer, J. R. Wilhoit, J. K. Boyer and John Arterburn, Jr. In 1906 it was decided to erect a building which, as remodeled, is now the home of the Kansas State Bank. In 1908 the Farmers National Bank was organized by a group of businessmen and opened in January 1909 with the following officers: R. S. Briscoe, President; P. B. Honnold, Vice-President; E. E. Covalt, Cashier; Bruce Nichols, Assistant Cashier and the following Board of Directors: R. S. Briscoe, P. E. McMorris, J. H. Sallee, C. D. Smith, J. R. Honn, C. M. Paxton, P. B. Honnold, G. W. Goble and William McAdams, Jr. This Bank began operations where Wright's Insurance Agency is now located. In 1918 a site for a building was purchased and the new Bank was formally opened in July 1919 where Herb Gil-



Interior view of Staff Bros. Cannery with employees

bert has his barber shop.

In 1926 the two Banks voted to consolidate and the merger was completed so that the Kansas National Bank was born July 1, 1926 with B. H. Pinnell, President; E. E. Covalt, Vice-President; T. S. Wright, Cashier; C. C. Covalt, F. S. Anderson, Assistant Cashiers; Pope Wilhoit and John Barry, Bookkeepers. The Board members were: B. H. Pinnell, E. E. Covalt, H. F. Pinnell, G. W. Goble, J. Y. Wilhoit, B. W. Honnold, C. D. Smith and H. W. Morris.

In 1930 the nation-wide financial crash came and the Kansas National Bank closed its doors.

In May 1943, seven of our progressive citizens led by Charles Kirchner applied for a new Bank charter. By June the stock was fully subscribed. A stockholders' meeting was held and a Board of Directors elected. September 11, 1943 the Kansas State Bank opened for business with B. W. Honnold, President; William Burnside, Vice-President; George Givens, Cashier and Directors, B. H. Saxton and R. L. Bane. It was organized with a capital stock and

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surplus of \$30,000.00, and an undivided profit of \$12,500.00. Its business has increased steadily the past ten years and at present has deposits of nearly \$1,400,000.00 with a capital stock and surplus of \$80,000.00 and an undivided profit of \$23,000.00.

The Kansas Building and Loan Association is another of the old businesses in Kansas. It was organized in 1886 and even in 1889 it had over \$100,000.00 of its stock in the hands of the citizens. It has experienced the same struggles of other financial organizations through the years but is at present a thriving business with about \$135,000.00 loaned to our citizens.



Fires and Fire Department

The largest fire of consequence in the early history of Kansas occurred on the night of January 10, 1862. The fire broke out in Mosley & Zink's store thought to have been located about where the dry goods store is at present, spread east to a restaurant, then to a tin and stove store, a saloon and a grocery. The total loss was estimated at \$20,000.00. The fire was thought to be arson although was never proven. Suspicion pointed toward a man named Charles Brooks. A few months before the fire, Brooks was caught burglarizing Mosley & Zinks, and while attempting to break open the safe, was shot in the neck and captured. He was sentenced to Joliet for seven years. While in jail awaiting trial he swore he would "live long enough to burn out Mosley & Zinks." Three months later he was pardoned and ten days later the store burned. Later fires were the burning of the Canning Factory once in 1892 and again in 1907.

Kansas has always had an efficient volunteer fire department, and operated for years with a hand-pulled hose cart and a "hand pumper." In the 1930's the legislature passed a Bill permitting the formation of Township Fire Protection Districts to be supported by tax funds, and Kansas was among the first towns in Illinois to take advantage of this. It was largely through the efforts of Dr. F. B. Weaver, who was Village President at the time, that this was ac-

complished. Meetings were held in 1937-38 and an election was held April 12, 1938 forming the District. Following the election County Judge Lauher appointed Dr. Weaver, Ira Honnold and Arthur Bennett as Trustees. A levy was made and in December 1939 a modern Fire Truck was purchased for \$5,500.00. On May 8, 1940 an ordinance was passed establishing a fire department, and since that time many serious fires have been avoided.



Waterworks

Prior to 1915 citizens of Kansas drew their water from wells and cisterns. In 1914 the water tower was erected and a system of water mains laid. All of this was done before drilling a well. Upon completion, a well was put down under the tower and no water was located. After much discussion and more drilling in the park, legend has it that J. A. Arterburn, a member of the Board, "witched" the well we



Wiley's Harness Shop — Adin Wiley, Eli Wiley, and John Arterburn — Kansas Journal entrance in rear and old depot in background

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now use. In August, 1938, from samples submitted by the Boards of Education to the State, it was discovered the wa'er contained sufficient methane gas (an explosive) to be dangerous. The State said it must be removed and through the efforts of Dr. F. B. Weaver, Village President, the gas was removed and a softener installed at a cost of \$11,000.00. An election was held October 27, 1937 and carried by a majority of almost 4 to 1 in spite of previous opposition to the softener question.



Library

The Kansas Community Memorial Library we have today, and of which we are justly proud, began with the efforts of interested volunteers in 1932. A committee was appointed from five organizations—Mr. W. R. Forbes, Village Board; Mrs. Marie Pinnell, Entre Nous; Mrs. M. N. Troll, Women's Club; Mrs. Eva Wilhoit, Bi-Weekly Club and Mrs. Ada Barr of the Columbian Club. In December 1932, a tea was held and those attending were asked to donate a book. Memberships were sold for \$1.00 and the library opened on the second floor of the Village Hall. In the beginning the library board members took turns keeping the library. Mrs. Margaret Trotter was the first paid librarian. In 1945 Mrs. Horace Tune donated a two-room brick building to be used as a library. A state charter was applied for and issued in June 1945. In November of this year an election was held to levy a library tax and to select a library board.

The board elected was Miss Ita Briscoe, Mr. Z. O. Arbogast, Mrs. E. B. Brown, Mrs. Hayes Hutchins, Mr. O. O. Mitchell and Mrs. Lucile Hutchison. This group formed the first incorporated library in Edgar County. It opened in one room of the new building in February 1946 with Mrs. Zella Fitzpatrick as librarian. In 1950 the second room was remodeled and opened. This year (1953) the outside of the building was resurfaced to protect it for future generations. The library is well used by its members and has on its

(Continued on page 25)



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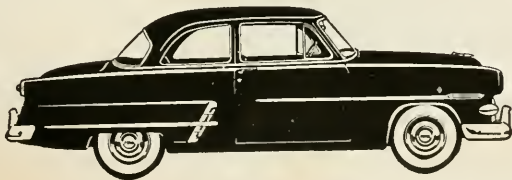
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(Continued from page 21)

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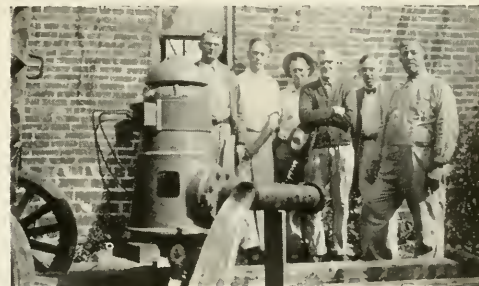
Churches

Almost with the organization of the town came the building of the first church. In 1853-54 the Methodist Protestant Church was erected in the block where the Bank now stands. This building was for a number of years generously opened for the free use of other denominations. As was the custom in those days, the brethren and sisters occupied different sides of the church and there were separate doors for them to enter. This building was moved in 1875 and is still in use as a residence by the Harry Batchelors.

The Christian Church was erected in 1856-57. It was built because of a conflict in meeting dates, and John Brown's grandfather was so irritated because of his wife's embarrassment that he started a subscription paper for a new church although he himself was a member of none. It was built on the west side of the lot where the present church is located. The building was a one room frame building facing north. In 1883 the building was moved to the east

part of the lot and remodeled. When it was decided to build the present brick church the old building was purchased by H. F. Pinnell and again moved west, and was used as a gymnasium for about three years after which it was moved to the Pinnell farm and made into a barn. The new church was completed and dedicated October 10, 1909.

The Presbyterians organized their church on November 7, 1858. A number of its charter members



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were of the Grandview Presbyterian Church. They met in the Methodist Protestant Church until they completed their own building in April 1863. It stood where the present manse is located, originally facing south. The present church was built during the summer and fall of 1909 and was dedicated November 28, 1909. The change in location caused some stormy battles and the loss of several members.

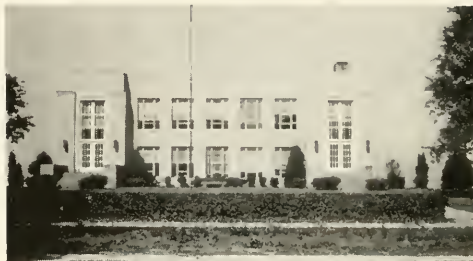
The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1857 and was part of the Grandview Circuit. In 1863 a church was built and the building and site is the present Hallock Tire Shop. It was dedicated December 25, 1864 and was later remodeled, a classroom and study room being added to the rear. The present church was dedicated July 14, 1907.

The community of Kansas has supplied well over fifty men and women who have dedicated themselves to the ministry and mission fields.



Schools

Education began in Kansas about 1853 in a small building built on an acre of ground donated by William Brown (John Brown's grandfather). The school was located where the first Methodist Episcopal Church was later built, and where Hallock's Tire Shop is at present. The first teacher was John McDavitt, a wealthy farmer. Because the railroad was so new,



Kansas Community High School

it was utterly impossible to manage the country scholars when a train passed through town. The shriek of the "Iron Horse" was the signal for a general stampede out-of-doors. This first building soon became too small and was abandoned. It was moved when the Methodist Church was built and used as a harness shop by John Arterburn.

A larger building was erected during the Civil War on the lots where Joe Allen's house now stands and the one west of it. It was due to the influence of J. K. Boyer that a building was erected larger than was necessary to meet their immediate needs. There are several living who attended this school and re-

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member it. It was a two story frame building of four rooms, facing the north. This school fulfilled the educational requirements of Kansas until it burned about 1888.

At this time the population of the Village according to a Business Men's Association Booklet was 2,000 and still growing. Therefore, it was necessary to replace the burned school with a still larger and more modern building. So in 1889 a new brick building, two stories high with rooms for six departments, was completed and was used as both grade and high school until 1936. Since this time it has been used as our grade school and now is inadequate for the present enrollment.

This same year (1889) plans were made and published to open the Eastern Illinois Normal School in Kansas. The Board of Trustees included: R. S. Briscoe, W. L. Kester, E. G. Rose, P. B. Honnold, J. A. Payne, W. A. Bell, W. W. Jacobs, J. K. Boyer and William Juntgen. The site was selected one mile south of Kansas at the crossroads. William Kester was one of the members of the State Committee. Senator Pemberton, who was said to have had no love for Kansas, was also a member. He managed to swing the vote in favor of Charleston. So ended our bid for higher learning.

May 1, 1894 a private school, the Eton Academy, was opened in Kansas. It was located in the dwelling where Harry Morris now lives. Part of the same house was moved to the country and is the home of Harry



Kansas Grade School

Marrs. This Academy was established by Edward Willasey and his wife, and accepted students from age eight through High School and operated in Kansas until 1904.

From this period until 1936 there was little improvement or change in the schools. At this time with
(Continued on page 33)

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HOMER PINNELL — KANSAS, ILLINOIS

(Continued from page 28)

Federal Aid, our present High School was built at a cost of nearly \$100,000.00. In 1948 due to declining rural population and the difficulty of getting state aid with which to operate, a consolidation of surrounding districts was voted and a unit district formed under which we now operate.



Village Park

The Village Park with its beautiful trees is one of the things of which Kansas is proud. In 1870 it was unkept and unsightly property owned by the Railroad with two warehouses about where the Village Hall stands. In 1875 the Park was laid out and the trees planted. A double deck band stand was erected, and walks and drives were laid out. Since that time various organizations have interested themselves in its care, and it continues to be admired and used by both natives and tourists alike. In earlier years annual Harvest Home Picnics were held here and people came from miles around to join in the festivities and fraternize with their neighbors. In later years it has been the place where annual Homecomings and Lions Club Fish Frys have been held.



First Kansas Band, Director—Henry Mayo

Organizations

Kansas Lodge No. 280, A. F. and A. M. was chartered October 6, 1858 with Orson Q. Herrick, Isaac N. De Long and William L. Laughead as the principal officers. This is the oldest organization in Kansas still in existence. From a charter membership of seven it has grown until now there are 150 members.

The Entre Nous Club, which is the oldest feder-

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ated club in the eighteenth district, was organized by Miss Laura Paxton April 3, 1895 for social, cultural and benevolent purposes. Of the seven charter members, Miss Ita Briscoe is still active. With a closed membership of fifteen, the personnel of the club through the years has numbered about fifty members, and the high standards of service and loyalty established by the charter group has been maintained through the years.

Coral Hall Post No. 539 was temporarily chartered March 2, 1920, due largely to the efforts of Lloyd Rider and Harold P. Shields. All service men of World War I being eligible, there were fifteen charter members. Harry P. McAdams was first Commander and Harold Shields Adjutant. The post was named in honor of the only Kansas man killed in that War. He was the brother of Ben, Margaret and Lester Hall. Permanent charter was issued in 1925. Following World War II a Legion Home was purchased for use of its members which now total 86. The American Legion is primarily interested in the welfare of veterans and their families, Americanism, National Security and Community Service.

The Coral Hall No. 539 unit of the American Legion Auxiliary was organized soon after the Legion Post was chartered. The first President was Mrs. Blanche Yowell and there were sixteen charter members. The Auxiliary renders community service, supports girls' state, child welfare, national security, Americanism, the education of war orphans and assists the American Legion in carrying out their projects. They render invaluable services to disabled veterans and war orphans by raising money for clothing, medical supplies and food. They help the needy in the community and yearly donate a book to the library in memory of our soldiers who gave their lives in the two World Wars.

The Kansas Women's Club was organized in October 1928 and Federated in 1929. There were 31 charter members of whom 11 are still active. It was organized originally as a Departmental Club with each department holding separate meetings. Later



Paxton's Pond — Kansas, Illinois

it was consolidated and one meeting a month was held. Miss Ita Briscoe was the first President. The Women's Club has been active in Community Service. It originally sponsored the Memorial Library, planted trees and has been especially active in sponsoring the Red Cross, Polio and Cancer Fund raising campaigns. Present membership is 59 active members, 22 associate members and four honorary members.

The Lions Club of Kansas was organized June 14, 1944, with 21 charter members. O. O. Mitchell was the first President and H. E. Covey, Secretary and Treasurer. Of the original members those still active are Earle Bond, H. E. Covey, George Kirchner, E. H. Ochs, O. O. Mitchell, Lincoln Stanfield and Frank Sexton. There are 32 members at present. This club was formed to serve the community and to better it. Among their several projects are the sponsorship of the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, maintenance of the Village Park and the Chimes clock, and yearly clean up campaigns.

The Kansas Chapter No. 774 of the Order of Eastern Star of Illinois was organized February 11, 1916 by Owen Scott, Grand Patron of Illinois. Mrs.

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KANSAS, ILLINOIS

Nora Arterburn was first Worthy Matron, W. R. Forbes, Worthy Patron, Mrs. Lucy Nichols, Secretary and Miss Ita Briscoe, Treasurer. There were 25 charter members of whom eight are still active. A Past Matron Circle was organized April 20, 1929.

Several other organizations exist those within the churches and many more have existed in the past but time and space limit the writer to those named above.

In closing this brief history of Kansas, although it is impossible to go into detail, mention must be made of the several Wars which have been fought during its 100 years. Our residents have not failed this country in times of need. We are well represented in the Armed forces today as we have been in the past, and aside from human sacrifices, the products of the rich soil surrounding the community have contributed to our nation's continued freedom.



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KANSAS, ILLINOIS

1921 TO 1953

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KANSAS

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A Memento of the Centennial

When a community undertakes to celebrate its 100th birthday and to commemorate the deeds of those who played a part in its founding and development, nothing is more important than the willingness of public minded citizens to accept individual responsibility and to offer their best in cooperation and sacrifice. Of equal importance is the willingness of the organized groups to lend the constructive force of combined effort, and to these individuals we owe our thanks.

To the many advertisers who have shown their faith in the celebration by their financial support, we give first thought.

To all of the committees who served so faithfully, without any complaints on their part, we wish

to say we thank you. We know that our forebearers would have been proud of these people and their accomplishments.

We wish to express our thanks to all individuals not mentioned in our program, all religious, civic, veterans and social groups, who worked so hard with personal sacrifice to make this possible.

It is our hope that we all have received a better understanding of our own people and their problems that we may be a better united community for the good of all its people.

The universal acceptance of the Centennial is evidence of our determination to build a bigger and better Kansas.



Methodist Episcopal Church



Presbyterian Church



Christian Church



Virginia Ave. Looking West — Kansas, Illinois

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Races and Contests

CAKE AND PIE CONTEST

TIME: 8 a.m. Friday, July 17, 1953

PLACE: Christian Church

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. All entries must be ready for judging at 10 a.m.
2. All entries must be on disposable plates.
3. All entries must be covered with cellophane wrapping

All entries will be sold at auction in the park at 1:00 p.m. Friday, July 17, 1953—proceeds to be used for contest expenses.

Score card for entries

A. External Appearance	30
B. Internal appearance and texture	40
C. Flavor	30 points
Total	100 points

Classification for pies

1. Fruit
2. Cream

Classification for cakes

1. Sponge Cakes (angel food, sponge, chiffon)

BICYCLE RACES

TIME: 3 p.m. Thursday, July 16, 1953

Girls

Pre-School Tricycle
Under 9 Yrs. bicycle
Under 11 Yrs. bicycle
Under 13 Yrs. bicycle
Under 15 Yrs. bicycle
Under 18 Yrs. bicycle
Under 30 Yrs. bicycle
Under 40 Yrs. bicycle
Over 40 Yrs. bicycle

Boys

Pre-School Tricycle
Under 9 Yrs. bicycle
Under 11 Yrs. bicycle
Under 13 Yrs. bicycle
Under 15 Yrs. bicycle
Under 18 Yrs. bicycle
Under 30 Yrs. bicycle
Under 40 Yrs. bicycle
Over 40 Yrs. bicycle

Cash prizes of \$1 and 50 cents will be paid for 1st and 2nd places. No entry fee. Entries must be registered with chairman at the start of races. Centennial committee is not responsible in case of accident.

Free-For-All Race — Prizes of \$3—\$2—\$1

This is a race for everyone, a prize winner in the above classes may enter.

2. Butter or other fats (white, yellow, chocolate, etc.)

PRIZES

Champion Pie—trophy
Champion Cake—trophy
First, second, and third prizes in each class.

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Paul Bunyan Criss

Friday, 3 p.m., July 17

PAUL BUNYAN CRISS, the Worlds Premier Axe man, will shave a man with a five pound double-bitted axe.

3:30 p.m.

Log chopping contest
Log sawing contest; cross-cut and chain saw
Log rolling contest
Rail splitting contest
Prizes to be announced



Costume Contest

Saturday, 1:00 p.m., July 18

Classes

Prizes

1. Oldest woman in Centennial
Costume ----- Sterling Spoon
2. Oldest man in Centennial Costume --- Tie Clasp
3. Oldest husband and wife in
Centennial Costume ----- Loving Cup
4. Former resident, in Centennial Costume,
coming greatest distance ---- Sterling Key Chain
5. Former family (husband, wife, child)
coming greatest distance ---- Seth Thomas Clock
6. Youngest girl in costume ----- Silver Baby Cup
7. Youngest boy in costume ----- Silver Baby Cup
8. Mother with most daughters in
costume ----- Sterling Spoon
9. Father with most sons in
costume ----- Tie Clasp and Spoon
10. Mother and father with most
children ----- Loving Cup and Spoon
11. Best dressed girl from 1 to
6 years ----- Knife, Fork and Spoon
12. Best dressed boy from 1
to 6 years ----- Knife, Fork and Spoon
13. Best dressed girl from 6 to
10 years ----- Identification Bracelet
14. Best dressed boy from 6 to
10 years ----- Identification Bracelet
15. Best dressed girl from 10 to
14 years ----- Identification Bracelet
16. Best dressed boy from 10 to
14 years ----- Ball Point Pen
17. Best dressed girl from 14 to
18 years ----- Jewel Case
18. Best dressed boy from 14 to
18 years ----- Jewel Case
19. Best dressed couple over 18 ---- Sterling Spoon

Rules of Beard Contest

Saturday, 9:00 p.m., July 18

- I (a) Most Distinguished Beard. 50% impersonation;
50% costume
- (b) Most Distinguished Beard. 50% impersonation;
50% costume
- II Champion Brothers (2 or more). 50% Beard; 50%
likeness
- III Oldest Man. 75% Beard; 25% age
- IV Youngest Man. 75% Beard; 25% age
- V (a) Typical Bum. 75% Beard; 25% costume
- (b) Typical Bum. 75% Beard; 25% costume
- VI Former Kansas resident from farthest distance.
75% Beard; 25% miles
- VII Father & Son. 75% Beard; 25% likeness
- VIII Father & Son. 75% Beard; 25% quantity
- IX Grandfather—Father—Son. 75% Beard; 25% age
of grandson
- X Beard—Most Natural Colors. 75% Beard; 25% Dif-
ferent colors
- XI Champion Trim Beard
- XII Champion Non Trim Beard
- XIII Grand Champion Beard

(This Program is subject to changes or altera-
tions.) Not responsible in case of accidents.

W. W. Moody, Chairman



Centennial Parade

Our First Hundred Years

Saturday, 12:00 Noon, July 18

Oldest Automobile
Oldest Tractor
Best Horsedrawn Vehicle
Best Oldtime Group
Best Decorated Float
Best Novelty Float
Best Man on Horse
Best Woman on Horse
Best Band
Best Church-Sponsored Float
Best Club-Sponsored Float
Best Business or Professional-Sponsored Float
Plaque will be awarded winners of each Class.

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KANSAS ILLINOIS

Western Horse Show

Autographs

Saturday, 2:30 p.m., July 18



Classes

Prizes

Class 1 Historical Event -- \$35; 25; 18; 15; 10; 5; 3
Class 2 Pony, Western, 48" and under;
Rider 12 and under ----- Trophy; \$8; 5; 3
Class 3 Parade Class, Single ----- \$10; 8; 5; 3
Class 4 Pony, Western, 48" and under
56", Rider under 16 ----- Trophy; \$8; 5; 3
Class 5 Ladies Western Pleasure
Horse ----- \$10; 8; 5; 3
Class 6 Parade Pair ----- Trophy; \$8; 5; 3
Class 7 Mens Western Pleasure
Horse ----- \$10; 8; 5; 3
Class 8 Stock Horse ----- \$10; 8; 5; 3
NO ENTRY FEE



Left to right: Mr. Shaver, C. A. Hite, Frank Ross,
? ? ? ?, Mr. Kester, Edgar Baner.



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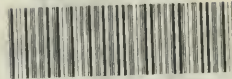
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